(b) As per the prescribed mode of disposal, confiscated gold is deposited in the Government of India Mint.

(c) Government is aware of the rising prices of gold and silver.

(d) Gold and silver are not essential commodities. Government has not, therefore, found it necessary to regulate the prices of these metals.

(e) The factors responsible for the rise in prices of gold and silver generally are:—

1. Seasonal demand on account of marriages, etc.
2. Shortage of ready-stock.
3. Effective anti-smuggling measures.

However, in respect of gold, the increase in price can also be attributed to:—

1. Higher overseas prices of gold
2. The fall in the value of Dollar
3. Fall in contraband arrivals due to effective checks.

Prices of both these metals are highly sensitive to speculations.

Pension cases of Freedom Fighters from Bihar

*17. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pension cases of freedom fighters from Bihar pending with his Ministry (category-wise) as on 31st December, 1987;

(b) what is the number of such cases which have been pending for more than one year, two years and three years and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken for their early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) As a result of a special drive conducted during July-August, 1986, all pending cases from Bihar excepting those relating to participation in Arya Samaj Movement in Hyderabad were disposed of and pension sanctioned where acceptable evidence was produced by the applicants.

194 cases of participation in Arya Samaj Movement are pending as on 31.12.1987. These cases are pending for less than 2 years. A Non-Officials Screening Committee has been set up to scrutinise cases pertaining to the Arya Samaj Movement.

Effect of dependence on non-resident Indians

*18. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing dependence on NRIs has resulted in fall in exchange assets in real terms; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Integration Council

*19. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of members of the National Integration Council at present;

(b) whether Government have received representations to reconstitute the Council to make it more representative in character and broad-based; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Number of representations from various quarters have been received from time to time for their inclusion in the NIC. It is not desirable to make the National Integration Council into too large a body. The voluntary organisations/individuals can continue to play an useful role for National Integration and Communal Harmony even if they are not part of the NIC.

Statement

LIST OF MEMBERS

National Integration Council (1986)

Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister — *Chairman*

Members

Union Home Minister

Union Finance Minister

Union Minister for Human Resource Development.

Chief Minister of all the States and Union Territories which have Legislatures.

Shri Kamalapati Tripathi

Shri Arjun Singh

Shri Uma Shankar Dixit

Shri EMS Namboodiripad

Shri C. Rajeshwara Rao

Shri Chandra Shekhar

Shri L. K. Advani

Shri Ajit Singh

Shri H.N. Bahuguna

Shri M.G. Ramachandran (Since expired)

Shri M. Karunanidhi

Shri R. L. Bhatia

Shri B. V. Abdulla Koya

Shri Chitta Basu

Dr. Farooq Abdullah

Shri Biruchan Doley,

Shri P. J. Joseph

Shri Eapen Varghese

Shri Tridib Chaudhari

Shri Surjit Singh Barnala

Shri Nar Bahadur Singh Bhandari

Shri N.T. Rama Rao

Shri D. B. Patil

Shri P. K. Mohanta

Shri Maulana Abdul Haque

Shri G. Parthasarathy

Shri Sharad Pawar

Shri Frank Anthony

Shri P. N. Haksar

Shri Satyajit Ray

Shri M. F. Husain

Shri Shyam Benegal

Shri Khushwant Singh

Baba Amte

President, FCCI

President, FCCI

President, INTUC

Chairman, Minorities Commission

Chairman, University Grants Commission

Chairman, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission

Shri Prem Bhatia

Shri Vijay Tendulkar

Shri Narendra Mohan

Shri Nikhil Chakravarty

Shri K. L. Nandan

Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali

Begum Abida Ahmed

Smt. Amrita Pritam

Smt. Ela Bhatt.

Performance of Indian Banks operating in foreign countries

*20. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian banks operating in foreign countries have been able to maintain their business and profitability during 1987;